AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the predetermined position contains a longitudinal direction end of the abdomen side region or back side region, the gather portion formed at the longitudinal direction end is a waist gather portion formed by placing a flexible elastic member so as to extend along the width direction of the absorbent article.

3.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein leg opening portions are provided on both sides along the width direction of the groin region so that the width of the groin region is narrower than the maximum width of the back side region and abdomen side region, and

        the predetermined position includes a position adjacent to the leg opening portion along the width direction and the gather portion formed on each position is a leg gather portion formed by placing a flexible elastic member so that the leg opening portion can be placed around the leg of a wearer when wearing.

4.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the predetermined position includes positions adjacent respectively to the left and right ends along the width direction of the absorber, and the gather portion formed on each position is

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a standing guard formed by placing a flexible elastic member along the longitudinal direction of the absorber.

5. - 8. (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of suppressing rash of skin, using the absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13.

10.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein a surfactant is applied together with the water-soluble skin care agent.

11.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on the absorbent article by applying a liquid coating agent containing the water-soluble skin care agent and drying the liquid.

12.   (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the absorbent article comprises a non-woven fabric, and wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on the fibers of the non-woven fabric.

13.   (Currently Amended) ~~The absorbent article according to Claim 1,~~ An absorbent article comprising a liquid-impermeable outer layer sheet and an absorber fixed on the outer layer sheet, a gather portion having a flexible elastic member formed on a predetermined
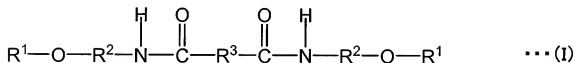
position, wherein the article has a substantially long shape, an abdomen side region, groin region and back side region for placing on a wearer's abdomen, a groin and back region for placing on a wearer while wearing respectively along it in the longitudinal direction, wherein

an oily skin care agent is applied on a predetermined region of the absorbent article on which a water-soluble skin care agent is also applied,

the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on an entirety of the surface to be contacted with the skin of a wearer of the gather portion, and

the oily skin care agent is applied directly on the water-soluble skin care agent, such that at least a part of the oily skin care agent is able to be transferred to the skin of a wearer when worn before the water-soluble skin care agent is able to be transferred to the skin of the wearer,

wherein the water-soluble skin care agent consists of a plant extract and the oily skin care agent consists of a diamide derivative of the following formula (I)

$$R^1{-}O{-}R^2{-}\underset{\displaystyle H}{N}{-}\underset{\displaystyle O}{C}{-}R^3{-}\underset{\displaystyle O}{C}{-}\underset{\displaystyle H}{N}{-}R^2{-}O{-}R^1 \qquad \cdots (I)$$

(wherein, R^1 represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group and/or alkoxy group, R^2 represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R^3 represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkylene group having 11 to 42 carbon atoms or an alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds).

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